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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 20th, 21st, 23rd, 39th and 44th meetings, on 30 and 31 October, 1 and 27 November and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20, 21, 23, 39 and 44). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication (A/57/137);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (A/57/211);

(c) Letter dated 20 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the documents of the twenty-ninth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Khartoum from 25 to 27 June 2002 (A/57/422-S/2002/1064);

(d) Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the

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Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2002 (A/57/444).

4. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.20).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.23 and A/C.2/57/L.52

5. At the 23rd meeting, on 1 November 2002, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund" (A/C.2/57/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/210 of 20 December 2000 and 56/207 of 21 December 2001,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of State and Government, in particular section III, entitled 'Development and poverty eradication',

"*Stressing* the objectives of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

"*Recalling* the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Political Declaration as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication',

"1. *Welcomes* the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures for the immediate operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund, including through raising public awareness, on the basis of the present resolution and, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in his report on the mechanisms, modalities, terms of reference, mandates and governance of the Fund;

"3. *Decides* that the World Solidarity Fund will support requests received from Governments of developing countries for financing poverty alleviation projects, including community-based projects;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 a progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund;

"5. *Urges* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the World Solidarity Fund, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At the 39th meeting, on 27 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund" (A/C.2/57/L.52), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.23.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.52 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Venezuela made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/57/SR.39).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.24 and A/C.2/57/L.87

10. At the 23rd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" (A/C.2/57/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the

proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/207 of 21 December 2001, entitled 'Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication',

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Expressing its deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Recognizing* that, while, the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries are still being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

"*Recognizing also* that for poverty eradication strategies to be effective it is imperative for developing countries to be integrated into the world economy and equitably share the benefits of globalization,

"*Reaffirming* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, bearing in mind the relationship between all human rights and development, and an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"1. *Stresses* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries;

"2. *Stresses also* that the deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

"3. *Stresses further* that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation;

"4. *Recognizes* the major role trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, and in this context stresses the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

"5. *Welcomes* the decision contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Work Programme of the Declaration, including through enhanced market access in products of interest to developing countries;

"6. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in this regard calls up on those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make available these commitments as soon as possible;

"7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and calls upon the developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

"8. *Stresses* that external debt and debt-servicing have a heavy impact on developing countries, in particular the poorest, most heavily indebted countries, hinder their efforts to eradicate poverty, pre-empt large proportions of Governments' expenditures and reduce scarce resources available for public social services and economic development, hence emphasizes that external debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can then be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development;

"9. *Calls* for the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, encourages participation in the Heavily

Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of all creditors that have not yet done so and, in this regard, stresses the need for the donor community to provide the additional resources necessary to fulfil the future financial requirements of the Initiative, hence welcomes the agreement that financing for heavily indebted poor countries should be reviewed analytically and separately from International Development Association replenishment requirements but immediately after meetings for the thirty-eighth replenishment of the Association, and calls upon all donors to participate fully in this process;

"10. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with the developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

"11. *Recognizes* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt these best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

"12. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural development, productive employment, population, environment, freshwater, food security and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic development, security and stability;

"13. *Expresses its concern* that, despite a decrease in the number of undernourished people in some developing countries during the 1990s, nearly two thirds of these countries recorded either no change or an increase in the number of undernourished people, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and that at current rates of progress, the goal to halve the proportion of undernourished people by 2015 is likely to be achieved in some regions but not in others, such as in sub-Saharan Africa;

"14. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in this regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"15. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, and in this regard expresses its concern at the

rapid growth of slum-dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, and stresses that unless drastic measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels the number of slum-dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase;

"16. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, particularly basic education and training, in particular for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, and in this context reaffirms the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, and recognizes the importance of the UNESCO strategy for poverty eradication, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Dakar goals as well as the Millennium Development goals;

"17. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, in particular addressing the special needs of developing countries through strengthened cooperation and assistance as well as through the implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001;

"18. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities;

"19. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and the international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

"20. *Stresses*, as recognized in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, further exacerbating the continent's marginalization;

"21. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's development as a programme of the African Union whose primary objective is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development, and urges the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist with the implementation of the New Partnership;

"22. *Stresses* that the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the development needs of the

least developed countries and to support their efforts in improving the lives of their people, and in this regard calls upon the national Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

"23. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)'."

11. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December 2002, the Vice-Chairman, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" (A/C.2/57/L.87), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.24.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.87, (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.87, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Establishment of the World Solidarity Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/210 of 20 December 2000 and 56/207 of 21 December 2001,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by heads of State and Government,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

Stressing the objectives of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[2] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[3] the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[4] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[5] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[6] and the Johannesburg Declaration[7] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[8] adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication,[9]

1. *Endorses* the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds, and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[8]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mandate the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the necessary measures for the immediate operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund as a trust fund of the Programme, subject to the financial rules and regulations as adopted by the Executive Board of the Programme/United Nations Population Fund, on the basis of the present resolution and, as appropriate, the recommendations contained in his report on the mechanisms, modalities, terms of reference, mandates and governance of the Fund;[9]

3. *Decides* that the World Solidarity Fund will support requests received from Governments of developing countries for financing poverty alleviation projects, including initiatives from community-based organizations and small private sector entities;

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[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-24/2, annex, sect. 1.

[5] See A/CONF.191/11.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[9] A/57/137.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003 a progress report on the measures taken for the operationalization of the Fund;

5. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the Fund;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the implementation of the present resolution is reported on to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it established the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Also recalling its resolution 50/107 of 20 December 1995 on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the International Conference on Financing for Development,[10] the five-year review of the World Food Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development[11] as well as the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,[12]

Further recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[13] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling its resolution 56/207 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication",

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[10] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-20 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[12] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[13] See resolution 55/2.

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[14] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[15]

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus[10] and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Also recognizing that, for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization,

Reaffirming that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[16]

1. *Stresses* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that, although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals;

2. *Also stresses* that the deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability;

3. *Reaffirms* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development; that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the

[14] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[15] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[16] A/57/211.

development prospects of developing countries; that, to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support to structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries; that efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes; and that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development;

4. *Also reaffirms* that good governance at the national level is essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

5. *Further stresses* that the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should contribute to achieving the targets of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, through decisive national action and strengthened international cooperation as part of an integrated approach to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;[13]

6. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[17] taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and the sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment, water and sanitation, food security, energy and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

7. *Stresses* the importance of increasing access to and control over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections, for the poor, in particular women, and of improving access for all to basic social services;

8. *Recognizes* the major role that trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, and in that context stresses the need for expeditious and complete integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system, in full cognizance of

[17] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

the opportunities and challenges of globalization and liberalization and taking into account the circumstances of individual countries, in particular the trade interests and development needs of developing countries;

9. *Welcomes* the decision contained in the Ministerial Declaration, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,[12] to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the work programme adopted at the Conference, including through enhanced market access for products of interest to developing countries;

10. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that, to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, and in that regard requests those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development[10] to make those resources available as soon as possible;

11. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries,[18] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

12. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

13. *Notes with great concern* the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the heavily indebted poor developing countries as constituting an element that adversely affects their sustainable development efforts, noting in that regard that the total debt stock of the developing countries rose from $1,458 billion in 1990 to $2,442 billion in 2001, recognizes that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining sustainable growth and development, including poverty reduction and the achievement of the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in that regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards those objectives;

[18] See A/CONF.191/11.

14. *Calls* for the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, encourages the participation in the initiative of all creditors that have not yet participated, and stresses in that regard the need for the donor community to provide the additional resources necessary to fulfil the future financial requirements of the initiative; welcomes, therefore, the agreement that financing for heavily indebted poor countries should be reviewed analytically and separately from International Development Association replenishment requirements, but back-to-back with meetings for the fourteenth replenishment of the Association, and calls upon all donors to participate fully in that process;

15. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in that regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

16. *Recognizes* the responsibility of all Governments to adopt policies aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices at the national and international levels;

17. *Recognizes also* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt those best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

18. *Expresses its concern* that, despite a decrease in the number of undernourished people in some developing countries during the 1990s, nearly two thirds of those countries recorded either no change or an increase in the number of undernourished people, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and that, at current rates of progress, the target to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015 is likely to be achieved in some regions but not in others, including sub-Saharan Africa, unless substantially strengthened efforts are made at all levels in order to achieve food security;

19. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in that regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[14]

20. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, expresses its concern at the rapid growth of slum dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stresses that unless urgent and effective measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase, and emphasizes the need for increased efforts

with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts made to implement the 20/20 initiative, which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

22. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in the empowerment of those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[19] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for poverty eradication, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve, inter alia, universal primary education by 2015;

23. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in many countries, in particular sub-Saharan African countries, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to the HIV/AIDS crisis, by addressing in particular the special needs of developing countries through strengthened cooperation and assistance as well as through the implementation of commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in June 2001;[20]

24. *Emphasizes* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities;

25. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and the international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

26. *Stresses*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

27. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a programme of the African Union, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnership with the international community, and urges the developed countries and the United Nations system to support the Partnership and complement the efforts undertaken by Africa to overcome the challenges it faces;

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[19] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000*, Paris, 2000.

[20] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

28. *Stresses* that the goal of halving the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015 will not be achieved without serious efforts to address the development needs of the least developed countries and to support their efforts to improve the lives of their people, and in that regard calls upon the national Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration[21] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[15] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

29. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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[21] A/CONF.191/12.